

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown below in the complete listing of claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A vacuum cleaner comprising:

a foot assembly having a suction nozzle and a working air conduit connected at one end to the suction nozzle, and adapted to move along a surface to be cleaned;

an upright handle assembly pivotally mounted to said foot assembly for manipulation of the foot assembly along the surface to be cleaned and including:

~~a module platform pivotally mounted to the foot assembly;~~

an elongated structural support ~~rigidly pivotally~~ mounted at a lower portion to the ~~module platform foot assembly~~ and forming a handle grip at an upper portion;

a portable cleaning module detachably mounted as a unit to the ~~module platform elongated structural support~~ and comprising:

a module housing;

a dirt separator mounted in the module housing for separating dust and dirt from dirt laden air;

a suction conduit having a first end connected to the module housing in fluid communication with the dirt separator and ~~a removable~~ coupling at a second end adapted to be removably connected to another end of the working air conduit; and

a motor-driven fan supported in the module housing for creating suction within the suction conduit and for moving the dirt laden air through the dirt separator; and

~~a working air conduit connected at one end to the suction nozzle in the foot assembly and is removably connected at another end to the suction conduit removable coupling;~~

whereby when the portable cleaning module is mounted on the ~~module platform~~ elongated structural support, the vacuum cleaner functions as an upright vacuum cleaner and the motor-driven fan draws dirt-laden air from the suction nozzle in the foot assembly ~~to through the~~

suction conduit and moves the dirt-laden air to the dirt separator, and wherein when the portable cleaning module is removed from the ~~module platform~~elongated structural support, the vacuum cleaner ~~can~~functions as a portable vacuum cleaner and the motor-driven fan draws dirt laden air from the second end of the suction conduit and moves the dirt laden air to the dirt separator;

the improvement which comprises:

the dirt separator includes a cyclone separation chamber into which the dirt laden air is tangentially introduced through an inlet thereto.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The vacuum cleaner according to claim 1 wherein the elongated structural support comprises a pair of spaced elongated frames that are joined at an upper portions thereof and the portable cleaning module is positioned between the spaced elongated frames when it is mounted ~~onto~~ the elongated structural support~~module platform~~.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A vacuum cleaner according to claim 2 wherein the spaced elongated frames form ~~a~~the handle grip at an upper portion thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A vacuum cleaner according to claim 3 wherein the spaced elongated frames are tubes.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A vacuum cleaner according to claim 4 wherein the suction conduit is at least in part flexible for movement of the second end thereof with respect to the module housing during use of the portable cleaning module when it is detached from the elongated structural support~~module platform~~.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The vacuum cleaner according to claim 5 wherein the ~~eyelone~~cyclone separation chamber has an outlet and the motor driven fan has an inlet connected to the cyclone separator chamber outlet.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The vacuum cleaner according to claim 5 wherein the motor driven fan has an inlet connected to the first end of the suction conduit and an outlet connected to the cyclone separator chamber inlet.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The vacuum cleaner according to claim 6 wherein the dirt separator further includes a dirt cup removably mounted in the module housing beneath the cyclone separation~~or~~ chamber to collect dirt separated from air therein.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The vacuum cleaner according to claim 8 wherein the module housing further includes a handle integrally formed at an upper portion thereof.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The vacuum cleaner according to claim 1 wherein the suction conduit is at least in part flexible for movement of the second end thereof with respect to the module housing during use of the portable cleaning module when it is detached from the ~~module platform~~ elongated structural support.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The vacuum cleaner according to claim 1 wherein the cyclone separation chamber has an outlet and the motor driven fan has an inlet connected to the cyclone separator chamber outlet.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ The vacuum cleaner according to claim 1 wherein the dirt separator further includes a dirt cup removably mounted in the module housing beneath the cyclone separation chamber ~~or~~ to collect dirt separated from air therein.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The vacuum cleaner according to claim 1 wherein the module housing further includes a handle integrally formed at an upper portion thereof.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The vacuum cleaner according to claim 1 ~~wherein the~~ and further comprising a module platform mounted to the elongated structural supports and including ~~an opening at an upper surface thereof, the opening forms the other end of the working air conduit and the suction conduit second end is removably coupled to the opening.~~

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The vacuum cleaner according to claim 1 wherein the module housing further includes a handle for hand carrying the module.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ The vacuum cleaner according to claim 17 wherein the handle is at an upper portion of the ~~portable cleaning module~~ housing.

19. (New) A vacuum cleaner comprising:

a foot assembly having a suction nozzle and a working air conduit connected at one end to the suction nozzle, and adapted to move along a surface to be cleaned;

an upright handle assembly pivotally mounted to said foot assembly for manipulation of the foot assembly along the surface to be cleaned and including:

an elongated structural support comprising a pair of spaced tubes pivotally mounted at a lower portion to the foot assembly and forming a handle grip at an upper portion;

a portable cleaning module detachably mounted as a unit to the elongated structural support between the spaced tubes and comprising:

a module housing;

a cyclone separation chamber into which dirt laden air is tangentially introduced through an inlet thereto and mounted in the module housing for separating dust and dirt from dirt-laden air;

a suction conduit having a first end connected to the module housing in fluid communication with the inlet of the cyclone separation chamber and a coupling at a second end adapted to be removably connected to another end of the working air conduit; and

a motor-driven fan supported in the module housing for creating suction within the suction conduit and for moving the dirt laden air to the inlet of the cyclone separation chamber; and

whereby when the portable cleaning module is mounted to the elongated structural support, the vacuum cleaner functions as an upright vacuum cleaner and the motor-driven fan draws dirt-laden air from the suction nozzle in the foot assembly through the suction conduit and moves the dirt-laden air to the inlet of the cyclone separation chamber, and wherein when the portable cleaning module is removed from the elongated structural support, the vacuum cleaner functions as a portable vacuum cleaner and the motor-driven fan draws dirt laden air from the second end of the suction conduit and moves to the inlet of the cyclone separation chamber.

20. (New) A vacuum cleaner comprising:

a foot assembly having a suction nozzle and a working air conduit connected at one end to the suction nozzle, and adapted to move along a surface to be cleaned;

an upright handle assembly pivotally mounted to said foot assembly for manipulation of the foot assembly along the surface to be cleaned and including:

- an elongated structural support pivotally mounted at a lower portion to the foot assembly and forming a handle grip at an upper portion;

- a portable cleaning module detachably mounted as a unit to the elongated structural support and comprising:

 - a module housing;

 - a cyclone separation chamber into which dirt laden air is tangentially introduced through an inlet thereto and mounted in the module housing for separating dust and dirt from dirt-laden air;

 - a suction conduit having a first end connected to the module housing in fluid communication the inlet of the cyclone separation chamber and a coupling at a second end adapted to be removably connected to another end of the working air conduit; and

 - a motor-driven fan supported in the module housing for creating suction within the suction conduit and for moving the dirt laden air through the dirt separator, the motor driven fan having an inlet connected to the first end of the suction conduit and an outlet connected to the cyclone separator chamber inlet; and

whereby when the portable cleaning module is mounted to the elongated structural support, the vacuum cleaner functions as an upright vacuum cleaner and the motor-driven fan draws dirt-laden air from the suction nozzle in the foot assembly through the suction conduit and moves the dirt-laden air to the inlet of the cyclone separation chamber, and wherein when the portable cleaning module is removed from the elongated structural support, the vacuum cleaner functions as a portable vacuum cleaner and the motor-driven fan draws dirt laden air from the second end of the suction conduit and moves the dirt laden air to the inlet of the cyclone separation chamber.

21. (New) A vacuum cleaner comprising:

a foot assembly adapted to move along a surface to be cleaned, the foot assembly including a suction nozzle and a working air conduit connected at one end to the suction nozzle;

an upright handle assembly pivotally mounted to said foot assembly for manipulation of the foot assembly along the surface to be cleaned and including:

a module platform including an opening, wherein the opening is fluidly connected to another end of the working air conduit, and the module platform is pivotally mounted to the foot assembly;

a portable cleaning module detachably mounted as a unit to the module platform and comprising:

a module housing;

a cyclone separation chamber mounted in the module housing and having an inlet into which dirt-laden air is tangentially introduced for separating dust and dirt from dirt-laden air, the cyclone separation chamber further having an outlet including a cylindrical wall through which air separated dust and dirt in the cyclone separation chamber passes;

a suction conduit having a first end connected to the module housing in fluid communication with the dirt separator and a coupling at a second end that is removably attached to the opening in the module platform; and

a motor-driven fan supported in the module housing for creating suction within the suction conduit and for moving the dirt laden air through the cyclone separation chamber; and

whereby when the portable cleaning module is mounted on the module platform, the vacuum cleaner functions as an upright vacuum cleaner and the motor-driven fan draws dirt-laden air from the suction nozzle in the foot assembly through the working air conduit and the suction conduit and moves the dirt-laden air to the inlet of the cyclone separation chamber, and wherein when the portable cleaning module is removed from the module platform, the vacuum cleaner functions as a portable vacuum cleaner and the motor-driven fan draws dirt laden air

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from the second end of the suction conduit and moves the dirt laden air to the inlet of the cyclone separation chamber.